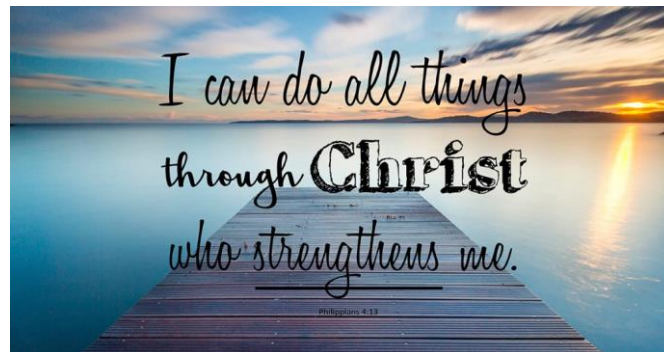


St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui Monday 13th February 2023



Kia ora koutou,

School closed tomorrow- Tuesday 14th February

I hope that you have managed to stay dry and safe through the evening. It appears that the worst of the weather is yet to come, so in following the advice from the Auckland Emergency Response team and the recommendation from the Ministry of Education **we will remain closed tomorrow Tuesday 14th February.**

I will confirm tomorrow if the closure will be extended any further.

Home Learning

For those who still have power and internet access, most students should be able to access their online Google Classrooms. Subject teachers have placed learning tasks and instructions for the next day or two. Please be mindful that some of our staff are also experiencing loss of power and internet connectivity.

Earlier today Mr Jellyman sent out some links to various websites that may assist any of our Junior students who are unable to access their school portal. These are suggestions to help keep your daughters engaged in their learning. We are very aware that power outages and loss of internet connection may make it challenging for some families to access any form of online learning. If you are affected in any way please prioritise your families well-being above anything else.

Reading a book, playing cards or a board game are all good ways to pass the time. We have become quite expert at this over this wet Summer.

Here are the website links sent to parents/caregivers of our Junior students in Years 7,8 and 9 this morning.

- *Science*

<https://www.nanogirl.co/kids-zone> Has practical activities with stuff from around house, some PDFs that can be printed, and lots of cool short videos.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/> lots of funstuff.

- *Maths*

<https://solve.me.edc.org/whoami/> for some number puzzles

<https://solve.me.edc.org/mobiles/> for some algebra type puzzles

<https://www.transum.org/Software/> for all sorts of skills practice, including multiplication tables, and games.

- *Social Studies*

The Social Studies department has a KiwiKids news subscription which will be great for our Junior students.

They can login online by using the below details:

Student website - www.kiwikidsnews.co.nz

Username - doms

Password - kidsnews

Once on the website, we recommend working through the following at your own pace:

1. Choose 5 news articles that interest you and read through them. Once you have read through the articles write a short summary of each in your Social Studies book, or on some *spare paper*.
2. Complete the **featured article activity** (this is under the premium banner so you need to make sure you are logged in). Here you can read the featured news article and then complete the **recall questions and thinking questions**.
3. As an extra challenge complete the **weekly news quiz** (also under the premium banner so you need to make sure you are logged in).

There is also this website that has a selection of world geography quizzes -

<https://www.geoguessr.com/seterra/en>

[Seterra Geography - Free Map Quiz Games](#)

The ultimate map quiz site! Seterra will challenge you with quizzes about countries, capitals, flags, oceans, lakes and more! Introduced in 1997 and available in more than 40 different languages, Seterra has helped millions of people study geography and learn about their world.

www.geoguessr.com

- *English*

The Google Slide is self-explanatory. Students can work through them and complete the tasks noted. The E-book links for the journal story for students to read are on slide 4

[Changing Lives: The Omeo Story – Google Slide LINK](#)

Family First

We remain hopeful that we will be back onsite as soon as possible. The above links are provided as a way to keep your daughter engaged in her learning and connected to her school whānau, wherever needed. However, I must emphasise the importance of prioritising your family's health, safety and wellbeing above all else. Once we are back at school later in the week, we will be able to reset learning routines.

Key contact numbers/websites for support

If you require any support please let me know as soon as possible. Alternatively, the following websites and numbers may be helpful at this challenging time.

St Vincent de Paul – Vinnies

Flood Relief Food Support

<https://svdpak.org.nz/>

0800 680 090



Society of St Vincent de Paul
AUCKLAND

[Auckland severe weather: What support is available and where can you get help – NEMA.](#) (On this page you can find information in alternative formats: Large print, easy read, audio and Braille.)

[National Emergency Management Agency – Civil Defence](#)

[Auckland Emergency Management | Auckland Emergency Management](#)

[Important Storm Updates: OurAuckland – Auckland Council](#)

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[Emergency preparedness in New Zealand – Get Ready](#)

[What you need to know: How to prepare for an emergency – RNZ News](#)

Emergency contact information

Here are some emergency contact details that may help in the event of Cyclone Gabrielle:

[Major Incidents – Auckland Emergency Management](#)

[National Emergency Management Agency – Civil Defence](#)

Ministry of Social Development contact numbers

Support and assistance may be available if you've been affected by weather events in your region.

Dedicated line for impacted residents

[0800 400 100](#)

Urgent accommodation assistance

[0800 22 22 00](#)

Accommodation for those who have COVID-19

Where people have COVID-19 and must leave their homes and cannot be accommodated with other whānau, the number to call is Health [021 227 4908](#)

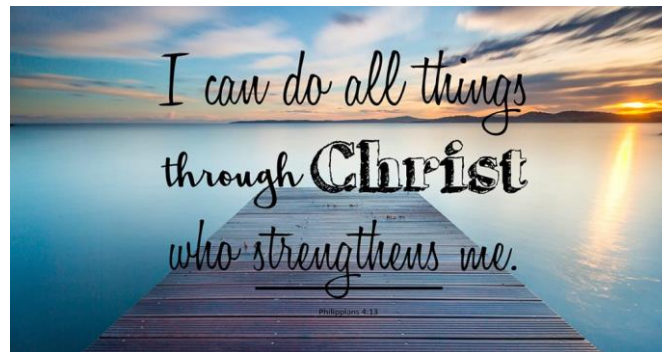
*Stay home
Stay safe
Stay positive*

Take care and stay safe whānau, and I will be back in touch tomorrow.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Anna Swann

St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui Wednesday 15th February 2023



Kia ora koutou,

It was wonderful to have so many of our students return to school today. I appreciate the great lengths that many of our families have gone to for this to happen.

We still have many of our students who are unable to get to school at present due to road closures, cancelled transport, and severely affected properties. Our prayers are with all our community who are continuing to face challenges at this time. The lack of internet access, power and clean water will cause ongoing challenges for some of our students and their families, and we will do what we can to provide what support we can.

Wherever possible, please contact the office if your daughter is away or will be away for a longer period due to impact of the cyclone.

Students at Piha and Karekare recommended to stay home tomorrow and possibly Friday

Emergency Services have been in contact and strongly recommend that only essential travel takes place from the Piha and Karekare area. Although the road is technically open to one-way traffic, they do not have confidence in the slip in the road holding up under pressure at the moment. Emergency Services will be in touch again with us tomorrow with an update, but my **recommendation is that our students from Piha and Karekare do not come to school tomorrow and until we are assured, they are safe to get here.**

Home Learning

Those at home with power and internet access.

For those not able to get to school but have power and internet access, most students should be able to access their online Google Classrooms, and this is where you will find learning tasks and expectations from subject teachers.

Those at home without any power and/or internet access.

Those who are completely disconnected are to prioritise their family well-being above all else. We will do what we can to support our students over the next few weeks whilst roads, power lines and properties are repaired and or people are relocated. If you are in contact with any of these affected families, please pass this on to them.

Those with no power or internet access but able to get to school.

For our students who have no power or internet at home but can get to school, please feel supported to do so.

There are showers at school you can use and any devices, mobile phones etc can be charged up onsite at school. If you require uniform to be washed, please let me know as we can help with this also.

Health and Safety at Drop Off and Pick Up times.

As you will be aware, our school is in a busy area which we share with at least five other schools. Most of these schools have varying start and finishing times which helps reduce the busyness of drop off and pick up times. However, our roads are busier than ever and traffic can at times be incredibly dense. We rely on all our community to work together to keep all our students safe.

If you are dropping off or picking up your daughter before and/or after school, I ask that you please do so outside the school gates.

Rathgar Rd

Before and after school there are eight buses that enter and exit through the Rathgar Rd gate. It is not possible for parents to enter through here at all before or after school. Students need to walk out the gate and meet their parent either on Rathgar Rd, one of the side streets such as Ti Nana Crescent, or at another organised spot.

Pinedale Place

Pinedale Place is an entrance for staff cars and limited deliveries only. If you are dropping off or picking up your daughter from this entrance at peak times, please do so outside the gates on Pinedale Place or one of the roads running off it. Parents and caregivers entering this carpark at peak times are placing our students at risk and also causing major traffic issues.

Many parents choose to delay pick up to 3.30 pm or a bit later, after the traffic around the entrance/exit ways has subsided. This alleviates a lot of the pressure and greatly supports the health and safety of our young people.

Arts and Crafts during the storm

Darcie Reddington in 7DT enjoyed some arts and crafts over the last couple of days at home in the storm.

She was very proud to show me her sock puppet – complete with a full set of teeth! Don't panic like I did – the teeth are from a mould, not from a family member!

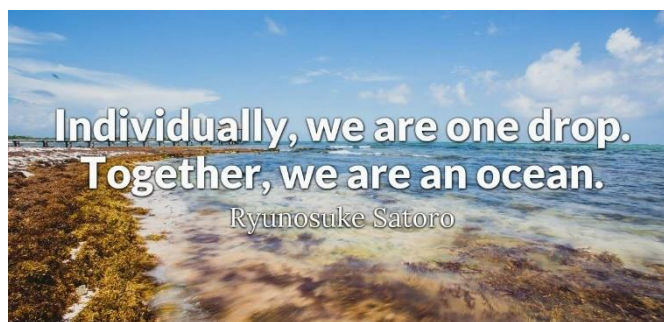


School Property Damage

We are very fortunate to have had minimal damage to our College property. A couple of small leaks will be repaired and the clear up of broken branches and leaves has been cleared up.

Thank you again for the understanding and kindness shown over the last few days while we navigated the challenges we were faced with. We remain optimistic that through settling back into the routines of school life, we will forge ahead on the return to some sort of normality.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Anna Swann



Key Calendar Dates

Friday 17th February

- Foundress Day Mass

Tuesday 21st February

- School Photos – full school uniform including blazers please
- New Families BBQ 5.30pm – 7pm
- Year 13 Families BBQ 5.30pm – 7pm

Key contact numbers/websites for support

If you require any support please let me know as soon as possible. Alternatively, the following websites and numbers may be helpful at this challenging time.

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St Dominic's Catholic College

Founded by the Dominican Sisters

Principal: Anna Swann

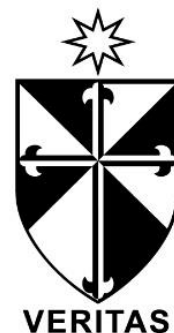
T (+64 9) 839 0380

F (+64 9) 839 0390

E office@stdoms.ac.nz

29 Rathgar Rd, Henderson, Auckland 0610

PO Box 21-123, Henderson, Auckland 0650



St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui 28th February 2023



Kia ora koutou,

This week was our first full week back at school and there was plenty to be grateful for. Having most of our students back onsite and in their classes, was what we had been hoping for. Teachers have enjoyed building relationships with their students and getting learning programmes well and truly underway.

Swimming sports this year had to take on a different 'vibe', with the closure of West Wave pools due to flooding, meaning a change to a more fun focused *Swim Carnival* for 2023. We managed to get through most of the events before the weather had us going back indoors. The House chant-off didn't suffer though and the cheers, songs and school spirit really lifted the lid on the gym in the afternoon. Please check out our College Facebook page to get a feel for what it was like.



After the pool events for Years 7-10 the House slightly in front on points is St Roses. The Senior student points are still to be added as well as the points from the chant competition. It really still is any one of the Houses (St Roses, St Margaret's, St Mary's or St Catherine's) who can take it out!



Year 7, Year 13 and new whānau BBQ



The past few years have proven challenging to hold community events such as this, so it was lovely to be able to meet with our newest families to the College last week.



Our new students have settled well into the routines of College life, even with the disruptions caused by the extreme weather.



Our Year 13 students also attended with their parents and caregivers. This was a great opportunity to remind our most senior students and their families about the importance of attending school every day, being on time and in every class, and with an attitude to achieve their very best.

Thank you to our PTFA, staff and senior students for your assistance on the night. We look forward to many more opportunities to meet with our St Dominic's whānau throughout this year.

Fantastic NCEA results...again

Last week we held a special assembly and celebrated all our 79 senior students who gained NCEA in Level 1, 2, or 3, endorsed with Excellence. This is a tremendous result and continues to reflect the excellent academic outcomes that we achieve here at St Dominic's Catholic College, despite the incredibly challenging circumstances faced over last year.

Other 2022 result highlights include:

- 99.1% of all school leavers had gained NCEA Level 2 endorsed with Excellence.
- More than half of **all students in Year 11, 12 and 13** gained NCEA endorsed with either Merit or Excellence
- 78.5% of Year 13 gained NCEA Level 3 compared to 67.2% nationally.
- 85% of Year 12 students gained NCEA Level 2 compared to 67% nationally.
- 83.3% of Year 11 students gained NCEA Level 1 compared to 63.3% nationally.



High Expectations

Although the weather provided a slightly unsettled start to the school year, we are optimistic that we will be able to be onsite and learning for the rest of the year.

All students have been provided with our *St Dom's Way – High expectations for Students*. This has been discussed at assembly, levels meetings and in form times.

Attendance

We have a big focus on attendance this year. Research shows a direct connection between school attendance, and achievement. We will be tracking attendance of all students and making direct contact with families when their daughter's attendance is not at the expected level. Students should only stay home if they are not well. Sometimes there may be other justified reasons for absence from school and these need to be communicated with the College as soon as possible.

Uniform

At St Dominic's we are very proud of our College uniform and expect our students to wear it correctly at all times. Please refer to the College website and student handbook for the expectations on uniform. This includes wearing correct footwear, and following the rules for jewellery, hair and makeup. Thank you for your support in this.

NCEA Internal Assessments for Year 11, 12 and 13 students

Students working towards a qualification in NCEA, will be provided many opportunities to gain credits from internal assessments throughout the year. It is the expectation that students complete all assessments unless they have been advised by a key member of staff to do otherwise.

Each student works alongside their dean and academic coach, as well as their subject teachers, to ensure they are completing the required tasks on time. This is tracked and monitored by a team of staff also. If your daughter does not hand in an internal assessment at any time, you can expect to be contacted by a member of staff to let you know.

This home-school partnership is vital in ensuring the success of all our students and we thank you for your support with this.

Waioara Leaders 2023

Our new Year 11 Waioara Leaders received their badges and joined their fellow Year 12 leaders in the Waioara team for 2023. Supported by Whaea Robynne and Mrs Milham, the team are very active in the College, promoting and leading initiatives with a focus on hauora, community, building resilience and self confidence. Thank you for all you do in our College, team. It is very much appreciated.



Polyfest Cultural Evening 2023

This Friday 3rd March is our pre-Polyfest Cultural evening. Our cultural performance groups have been working hard over the last few weeks, learning and practicing in preparation of this year's Polyfest.

The evening pre-performance always brings an enthusiastic crowd to support our students and we appreciate the support that our families provide.



Please note that due to our health and safety requirements on the evening, there will be staff directing all our audience to their seats. Aisles must be kept clear in case of any emergency. We ask that you do not interrupt the students performances on the night. If you wish to give koha in any way to a group, please use the basket provided. If you wish to gift money to an individual student, please do so after their performance, as any money gifted during the performance will be collected by the tutor, for the benefit of that cultural group.

Entry is by way of a gold coin donation, which will go towards the

We wish all our groups who are participating in the Polyfest the following week, all the very best for their performances on the big stage.

Important Dates to Note

PPTA Strike Action Day Thursday 16th March – Students are learning from home on this day. Supervision is available for students under the age of 14 who's parents/caregivers need to go to work on this day. Please email Ms Heffernan associateprincipal@stdoms.ac.nz if you require supervision on this day for your daughter. Any other students requiring to be onsite for their learning for any other reason on this day also need to contact Ms Heffernan.

Teacher Only Day moved from 24th March until 30th June (End of Term 2)

Netball Trials 2023

Our netball trials started this week with a great turn out from our year 7 & 8 students so far. If you missed the first trial, it's ok, there is another one next week.

YEAR 7 Mon 27th February, 3.30-5.30pm & Mon 6th March, 3.30-5.30pm

YEAR 8 Tues 28th February, 3.30-5.30pm & Tues 7th March, 3.30-5.30pm

YEAR 9/10 Wed 1st March, 3.30-5.30pm & Wed 8th March, 3.30-5.30pm

SENIORS Tue 21st Mar, 3.30-5.30pm, Wed 22nd March, 3.30-5.30pm

Other Key Calendar Dates

Thursday 2nd March

- Level 2 Bio Trip

Friday 3rd March

- Cultural Evening

Friday 10th March

- Tongan Cultural Group and Diversity Stage at Polyfest

Saturday 11th March

- Samoan Cultural Group at Polyfest

Health and Safety at Drop Off and Pick Up times.

This is a reminder about pick-up and drop off points outside the College.

As you will be aware, our school is in a busy area which we share with at least five other schools. Most of these schools have varying start and finishing times which helps reduce the busyness of drop off and pick up times. However, our roads are busier than ever and traffic can at times be incredibly dense. We rely on all our community to work together to keep all our students safe.

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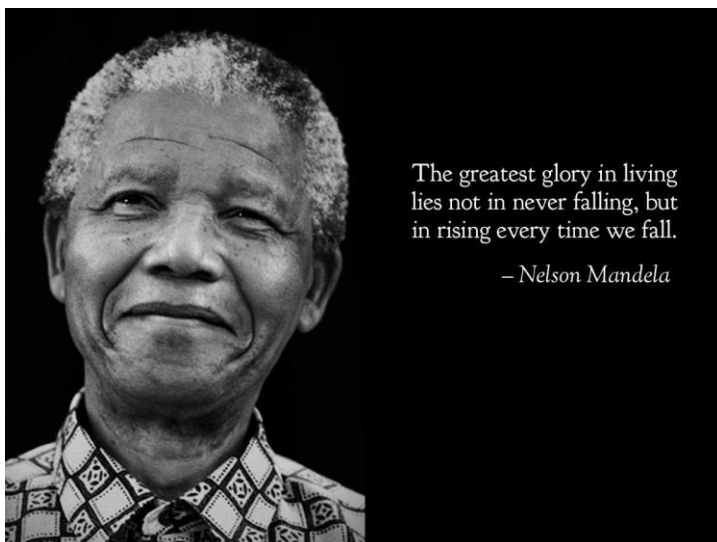
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Pinedale Place

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Many parents choose to delay pick up to 3.30 pm or a bit later, after the traffic around the entrance/exit ways has subsided. This alleviates a lot of the pressure and greatly supports the health and safety of our young people.

Enjoy a great week everyone.



Ngā manaakitanga,
Anna Swann

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